57. Desirability of setting apart every year a portion of the revenue of the taluk for improving agriculture and the means of communication in the taluk.

Mr. E. Narayanan Oonnithan (Member, Kartigapalli taluk) explained the importance of the taluk in point of area, population, density, &c., and gave figures in regard to the area under cultivation, and other kindred matters. He then stated that at one time the taluk was self-contained in the matter of food-production, but that it was not so now on account of increase of population and other causes. There were not sufficient facilities for agricultural improvement. The want of roads was a matter which they had been urging for the past 16 years at the Assembly. The most urgent road the construction of which was agreed to at the P. W. Conference of 1089 was the one from Trikkunnappuzha to Haripad. Though 6 years had elapsed, nothing had been done. Though a sum of about Rs. 3 lakhs was being realised from the taluk as revenue, the condition of the means of communication in the taluk was most deplorable. It was highly necessary that a certain portion of the revenue of the taluk should be ear-marked every year for public works in the taluk. There were several tanks, channels, canals, &c., which should be improved or restored, so as to make them useful for cultivation. It might not be possible to execute all the works at once, but a definite programme might be prepared and the necessary works carried out in instalments. The co-operation of the people might be invited, and if the Dewan Peishkar were to make earnest endeavours, there would be no difficulty in securing substantial support from the people.

Dewan's reply.—Noted. The attention of the Dewan Peishkar will be invited to the representation of the Member.

58. Agricultural needs of the Vaikom taluk.

Mr. Varki John (Member, Vaikom taluk) pleaded for greater conveniences being afforded for carrying on agricultural operations, such as grazing grounds, improved implements, &c. He then submitted that the ryots were suffering much on account of their cattle being subject to diseases and requested that a Veterinary Dispensary might be opened at Vaikom. The nearest Veterinary Dispensary was either at Kottayam or at Alleppey, about 24 miles away. The other requests of the Member were :—(1) opening of model demonstration farms, (2) granting of agricultural loans, and (3) improvement of (*a*) Kanian *thodu* (*b*) Kannadi or Tholupra *thodu* (*c*) Muzhikal *thodu* and (*d*) Palliprom *thodu*.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

59. Need for opening Agricultural Boards in Ambalapuzha to settle disputes between *punja* cultivators.

Mr. Ousep Kochu Ousep (Member, Ambalapuzha taluk) drew the attention of Government to the hardships of *punja* cultivators. The putting up of bunds (*Varampus*) was the first important step. *Punja* lands were cultivated in blocks varying from 2,000 to 10,000 *paras* in extent and such cultivation was the conjoint effort of several ryots. If one ryot did not take steps to put his bund in order, that was sufficient to cause damage to the other portions. When complaints were made to higher authorities about the failure of a ryot to carry out his portion of the bund, no one listened to them. If, out of a desire to guard one's own interest, one were to put up the bund which one's neighbour ought to do, it was impossible to realize the cost even through a court of law. The next step in *punja* cultivation was the draining of water. That too was now done conjointly, as the pumping of water was costly. Here also the same difficulties were being experienced and the files in the Alleppey Munsiffs' Courts would bear testimony to the large volume of litigation on the subject. The third difficulty was in regard to labour. It was the practice to make advances to labourers in the shape of money and paddy under a contract. But the terms of such contract were being often violated, as the labourers were not available at the time when their services were required. To remedy the three-fold defects pointed out above and to attend to other agricultural matters Agricultural Boards should be created, composed of capable and experienced ryots. A law should first be passed and the Boards constituted under it.

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The Member then described in detail the inconveniences, worry, annoyance and even loss the people were put to on account of the Public Canals and Ferries Regulation. The immediate annulment of the Regulation was demanded, or, if that could not be done, the whole of Kuttanad should be exempted from the operation of the Regulation. The Member added that the people were willing to make good the amount of probable loss of revenue to Government, if the Regulation were cancelled or if they were exempted from its operation. It was then explained that during the cultivation season, *i. e.*, during the months of Vrischigom, Dhanu, Makaram, Meenam and Medam, large colonies of labourers used to be engaged in the cultivation of the *punja* lands, making the locality their temporary abode. On account of this large population, contagious diseases sometimes occurred and when it took place, several persons used to die for want of efficient and timely medical aid. It would be a great boon if 4 or 5 temporary dispensaries in suitable places were opened for affording medical relief to them during the season.

Lastly, the Member requested loan of Government money for such agricultural purposes as pumping engines, kerosine oil, manure, &c.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

60. Need for holding an annual Agricultural and Industrial Exhibition at Alwaye in connection with the Sivarathri festival.

Mr. K. P. Kunjikrishna Menon (Member, T. I. C., Alwaye) said that improvement should be effected in the agricultural condition of the country, and that the starting of agricultural farms, opening of agricultural schools, establishment of industrial institutions, and holding of agricultural and industrial exhibitions were the means of agricultural development. Alwaye being an important agricultural centre, it was highly desirable that an Agricultural and Industrial Exhibition should be held there every year in connection with the Sivarathri festival for which large crowds of pilgrims and others would congregate. As such a function could not be held without the help of Government, a contribution of Rs. 500 from Government should be made towards the Exhibition.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

(2) Other Industries.

61. Development of industries in Travancore.

Mr. K. Krishna Panikkan (Member, T. I. C., Mavelikara) pointed out that the steps so far taken for the promotion of industries were not productive of much benefit and that the industrial policy itself should be revised so that it might do more good to the country. The best way towards that end was the institution of an Economic Conference on the lines of what obtained in the Mysore State. It would not do much good, if young men trained in some industry were entertained in Government service. They should, on arrival, be given the necessary capital and other conveniences for working, as a private concern, the industry in which they had their training. Then alone would the public have confidence in the value of the training given as well as the method of promoting the particular industry. Otherwise the entertainment of such young men trained at State cost would be of no use. It would, further, serve as an incentive to private enterprise, if the Government scholarship-holders were allowed to start industries straight on, instead of being provided with berths in the public service which benefited nobody except themselves.

The Member mentioned the following industries as capable of being revived:—(1) Manufacture of sweet toddy from cocoanut. (2) Cultivation of tobacco. (3) Manufacture of salt. (4) Weaving and cultivation of cotton. (5) Smelting of iron, and steel works. (6) Manufacture of China jars. (7) Metal works.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

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